

Falls of the James Scenic River Advisory Committee

Approved Minutes for April 13, 2006

Attendees:

Committee Members:

John Bryan, Ralph Hambrick, John Pearsall and Jonathan Young.

Others:

Edward Alleyne (DPU), Christopher Beschler (DPU), Roger Cronin (Greeley & Hanson), Molly Dellinger-Wray (Friends of James River Park), Christine Fix (DPU), Rosemary Green (DPU), Bill Farrar (DPU), William Judy (Greeley & Hanson), Leighton Powell (Scenic Virginia), Bob Steidel (DPU) and Ralph White (James River Parks).

The meeting convened with an introduction of Mr. Christopher Beschler, the newly appointed Director of the Department of Public Utilities. Beschler spoke to the importance of developing relationships with groups like Falls of the James. Beschler communicated his commitment to protecting the James River. In addition, Beschler fielded a series of questions pertaining to among other items, Chappel Island.

The meeting continued with an update on the Water Conduit Project by Rosemary Green of the Department of Public Utilities. DPU advised that removal of the existing pipe is not included in the plan. This reality prompted discussion on the Committee and a request to DPU to study what costs would be entailed in removing the existing pipe. DPU agreed to review the costs. Other topics of discussion pertinent to the project included a recommendation by Ralph White to use brown colored material along the James River to mask the manmade additions. DPU concurred with the recommendation. White further inquired in regards to Pollard's Pond and the likelihood of acquiring pedestrian access.

Ms. Dolly Dellinger-Wray of Friends of James River Parks advised of an upcoming fish stocking and a park user survey. Wray requested help for the survey.

Mr. John Pearsall upon a recommendation by Chairman Ralph Hambrick motioned that the Committee draft a letter to the Department of Public Works communicating appreciation for a job well done on the Riverside Drive bank stabilization project. The motion passed unanimously. Subsequent the vote, a discussion was initiated pertaining to Riverside Drive and pedestrian and vehicular traffic. Pearsall contended that a wider shoulder was requisite to accommodate pedestrians though Mr. Jonathan Young communicated a concern that a wider road may result in increased speed. Mr. Ralph White suggested that the Drive should be considered for designation as a Scenic

Road wherein special rules would apply. Further, the proposed partial closure of Riverside Drive to vehicular traffic was discussed.

Additional topics of discussion included the status of conservation easements and upcoming river events.

The Committee adjourned at 1:50.